

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please cancel Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-18, and 83, and amend Claims 6, 9, and 19 as follows:

1.-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The An image sensing apparatus according to Claim 4, having a plurality of unit cells arranged in two dimensions, each unit cell including a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements and a common circuit shared by and arranged between said plurality of photoelectric conversion elements included in the same unit cell that the common circuit belongs to.

wherein said common circuit includes at least a transistor, signals from said plurality of photoelectric conversion elements are coupled to the transistor and processed, and the transistor outputs the processed signals to an output line.

wherein a first distance between a center of mass of photo-receiving areas of adjoining photoelectric conversion elements included in a given unit cell is substantially equal to a second distance between the center of mass of the photo-receiving areas of the adjoining photoelectric conversion elements included in different unit cells, and a third distance between a center of mass of the photo-receiving area of a photoelectric conversion element included in the given unit cell and the center of mass of the photo-receiving area of the adjoining photoelectric conversion element included in an adjoining unit cell.

wherein said common circuit is arranged at the edge of each plurality of photoelectric conversion elements arranged in a horizontal direction, and

wherein said unit cell is configured with a plurality of pixels each including a photoelectric conversion element, and contacts between layers of each pixel are arranged so that a number of conductors passing over each unit cell, as well as one of the contacts which is not connected to a conductor passing over the unit cell is connected to a light-shield film of the pixel.

7.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The An image sensing apparatus according to Claim 7, having a plurality of unit cells arranged in two dimensions, each unit cell including a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements and a common circuit shared by and arranged between said plurality of photoelectric conversion elements included in the same unit cell that the common circuit belongs to,

wherein said common circuit includes at least a transistor, signals from said plurality of photoelectric conversion elements are coupled to the transistor and processed, and the transistor outputs the processed signals to an output line,

wherein a first distance between a center of mass of photo-receiving areas of adjoining photoelectric conversion elements included in a given unit cell is substantially equal to a second distance between the center of mass of the photo-receiving areas of the adjoining photoelectric conversion elements included in different unit cells, and a third distance between a center of mass of the photo-receiving area of a photoelectric conversion element included in the given unit cell and the center of mass of the photo-

receiving area of the adjoining photoelectric conversion element included in an adjoining unit cell,

wherein said common circuit is arranged at the edge of each plurality of photoelectric conversion elements arranged in a vertical direction, and

wherein said unit cell is configured with a plurality of pixels each including a photoelectric conversion element, and contacts between layers of each pixel are arranged so that a number of conductors passing over each unit cell, as well as one of the contacts which is not connected to a conductor passing over the unit cell is connected to a light-shield film of the pixel.

10.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The An image sensing apparatus according to Claim 1, having a plurality of unit cells arranged in two dimensions, each unit cell including a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements and a common circuit shared by and arranged between said plurality of photoelectric conversion elements included in the same unit cell that the common circuit belongs to,

wherein said common circuit includes at least a transistor, signals from said plurality of photoelectric conversion elements are coupled to the transistor and processed, and the transistor outputs the processed signals to an output line,

wherein a first distance between a center of mass of photo-receiving areas of adjoining photoelectric conversion elements included in a given unit cell is substantially equal to a second distance between the center of mass of the photo-receiving areas of the adjoining photoelectric conversion elements included in different unit cells,

and a third distance between a center of mass of the photo-receiving area of a photoelectric conversion element included in the given unit cell and the center of mass of the photo-receiving area of the adjoining photoelectric conversion element included in an adjoining unit cell, and

wherein said common circuit is digital signal conversion means for converting a signal from each of said plurality of photoelectric conversion element into a digital signal.

20.-83. (Cancelled)